



ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 11, 2022 | 3:30 P.M.

Cover: The Annunciation (Santo Domenico, Fiesole), Fra Angelico, o.p., 1426



ORDER OF SERVICE

Advent Lessons and Carols

THE PROCESSION

All gather in silence.

PROCESSION

At the ringing of the sacristy bell, all stand as the Schola Cantorum sings:

Conditor alme syderum
Eterna lux credentium
Christe redemptor omnium
Exaudi preces supplicum.

*Kind creator of the stars,
eternal light of believers,
O Christ, redeemer of all,
hear the prayers of your supplicants.*

Qui condolens interitu
Mortis perire seculum,
Salvasti mundum languidum
Donans reis remedium.

*You are the one, having compassion
that the race should perish in death,
who saved the languishing world,
giving the remedy to all things.*

Vergente mundi vespere,
Uti sponsus de thalamo,
Egressus honestissima
Virginis matris clausula.

*When the world's evening draws to a close,
as the spouse from his chamber,
he came forth from the most honored
womb of a Virgin Mother.*

Laus, honor, virtus, gloria
Deo Patri et Filio
Sancto simul Paraclito,
In sempiterna secula. Amen.

*Praise, honor, virtue, and glory
be to the Father and to the Son,
and also to the Paraclete,
for the everlasting ages. Amen.*

*Words: seventh century
Music: Guillaume DuFay*

INVOCATION

The Pastor prays:

O Christ, our refuge and strength, the hope of mankind, most ardently desired and longed for, whose light shines from afar upon the dark clouds which hang about us: behold the time of your coming draws near. O Wisdom, O Adonai and Leader of the House of Israel, O Root of Jesse's stem, O Key of David, O Radiant Dawn, O King of the nations, O Emmanuel: behold, your faithful people cry unto you. Hear us, O God, our Savior, who are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those afar on the wide sea. Guide us among the tempests that beset our course, and bring us safely to the haven of those eternal shores, where there shall be no death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor any more pain. Stretch forth your most sacred Hands — those same pierced Hands that extended to receive all sinners in your Passion — to embrace the souls of all your faithful people gathered here. Let the faith that you have planted in our hearts work in us, so that at the hour of our death, we may be made worthy of salvation to eternal life.

Amen.

Words: based on the prayers of St. Gertrude the Great

All sit

I. O WISDOM

ANTIPHON

The women of the Parish Choir sing:

O Sapientia, quae ex ore
Altissimi prodiisti,
attingens a fine usque ad finem fortiter,
suaviterque disponens omnia:
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

*O Wisdom, who proceeded from the mouth
of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
and ordering all things with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge.*

Music: Dominican Chant

LESSON

Read by a Knight of Columbus

Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden?’” The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’” But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and

you will be like gods, who know good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

When they heard the sound of the Lord God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. The Lord God then called to the man and asked him: “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.” Then God asked: “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?” The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me — she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.” The Lord God then asked the woman: “What is this you have done?” The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”

Then the Lord God said to the snake: “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all the animals, tame or wild; on your belly you shall crawl, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; they will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel.”

To the woman he said: “I will intensify your toil in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Yet your urge shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

To the man he said: “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat from it,’ Cursed is the ground because of you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field. By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The man gave his wife the name “Eve,” because she was the mother of all the living. The Lord God made for the man and his wife garments of skin, with which he clothed them. Then the Lord God said: See! The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil! Now, what if he also reaches out his hand to take fruit from the tree of life, and eats of it and lives forever?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Genesis 3:1–22

CAROL

The Schola Cantorum sings:

Adam lay i-bowndyn,
bowndyn in a bond,
Fowre thowsand wynter
thowt he not to long;
And al was for an appil,
an appil that he tok,
As clerkes fyndyn
wretyn in here book.

*Adam lay bound,
Bound in a bond;
Four thousand winters
Thought he not too long;
And all was for an apple,
an apple that he took,
As clerics find
written in their book.*

Ne hadde the appil take ben,
the appil taken ben,
Ne hadde never our lady
a ben hevene quen.
Blyssid be the tyme
that appil take was!
Therefore we mown syngyn
Deo gratias.

*But had the apple not been taken,
the apple not been taken,
Never would our Lady
have been Heaven's Queen.
Blessed be the time
that apple was taken!
Therefore we sing:
Thanks be to God.*

*Words: early fifteenth century
Music: Boris Ord*

RESPONSORY

All stand

Come, O Wisdom, sweeter than all sweetest delights.
Come, O Wisdom, and do not disdain your poor people.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Words: St. Gertrude the Great

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who are weighed down from of old by slavery beneath the yoke of sin, may be set free by the newness of the long-awaited Nativity of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

II. O ADONAI

ANTIPHON

O Adonai, et dux domus Israël,
qui Moyse in igne flammae rubi apparuisti,
et ei in Sina legem dedisti:
veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

The men of the Schola Cantorum sing:

*O Lord and leader of the house of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in red flames
and on Sinai gave him the law:
come to free us with your outstretched arm.*

Music: Dominican Chant

LESSON

Read by a catechumen

While we wait for the salvation that comes from the Lord, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our cry if it pleases him. For there has not risen among us in recent generations, nor does there exist today, any tribe, or clan, or district, or city of ours that worships gods made by hands, as happened in former days. It was for such conduct that our ancestors were handed over to the sword and to pillage, and fell with great destruction before our enemies. But since we acknowledge no other god but the Lord, we hope that he will not disdain us or any of our people. Therefore, my brothers, let us set an example for our kindred. Their lives depend on us, and the defense of the sanctuary, the temple, and the altar rests with us. He has not tested us with fire, as he did them, to try their hearts, nor is he taking vengeance on us. But the Lord chastises those who are close to him in order to admonish them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Judith 8:17–20, 24, 27

CAROL

The Parish Choir sings:

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Words: Psalm 145:15–16

Music: Jean Berger

RESPONSORY

All stand

Come, O Adonai, O sweetest Manna.

Come, O Adonai, and satisfy our exceeding hunger.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Words: St. Gertrude the Great

COLLECT

Incline a merciful ear to our cry, we pray, O Lord, and, casting light on the darkness of our hearts, visit us with the grace of your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

III. O ROOT OF JESSE

ANTIPHON

O Radix Jesse,
qui stas in signum populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem gentes deprecabuntur:
veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.

The boys and girls of the Schola Cantorum sing:

*O Root of Jesse,
who stand as a sign among the peoples,
kings fall silent in your presence,
whom the Gentiles will seek:
come to deliver us, do not delay.*

Music: Dominican Chant

LESSON

Read by a sister

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the

wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 11:1-10

CAROL

The Parish Choir sings:

In what torn ship so ever I embark,
That ship shall be my emblem of Thy ark;
What sea soever swallow me, that flood
Shall be to me an emblem of Thy blood;
Though Thou with clouds of anger do disguise
Thy face, yet through that mask I know those eyes,
Which, though they turn away sometimes,
They never will despise.

I sacrifice this island unto Thee,
And all whom I love there, and who loved me;
When I have put our seas 'twixt them and me,
Put thou Thy seas betwixt my sins and Thee.
As the tree's sap doth seek the root below
In winter, in my winter now I go,
Where none but Thee, the eternal root
Of true love, I may know.

*Words: John Donne
Music: Imogen Holst*

RESPONSORY

All stand

Come, O Root of Jesse, heavenly Physician.
Come, O Root of Jesse, and heal our stricken souls.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Words: St. Gertrude the Great

COLLECT

Almighty God, who command us to prepare the way for Christ the Lord, grant in your kindness, we pray, that no infirmity may weary us as we long for the comforting presence of our heavenly physician. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

IV. O KEY OF DAVID

ANTIPHON

O Clavis David,
et sceptrum domus Israël,
qui aperis, et nemo claudit,
claudis, et nemo aperuit:
veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris,
sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

The men of the Parish Choir sing:

*O Key of David,
and scepter of the house of Israel,
you open, and no one shuts,
you shut, and no one opens:
come, and lead the captive from prison.
seated in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

Music: Dominican Chant

LESSON

Read by a member of the Parish Choir

Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: "I will summon my servant, and I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; what he opens, no one shall shut, what he shuts, no one shall open. On him shall hang all the glory of his ancestral house: descendants and offspring, all the little dishes, from bowls to jugs."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 22:20a, 21–22, 24

CAROL

The Schola Cantorum sings:

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King. Come, O Lord!

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, Op. 96, No. 1

RESPONSORY

All stand

Come, O Key of David, a thousandfold above all others beloved.

Come, O Key of David, spring of inexhaustible sweetness.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Words: St. Gertrude the Great

COLLECT

Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus, and do not delay, that those who trust in your compassion may find solace and relief in your coming. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

V. O RADIANT DAWN

ANTIPHON

O Oriens, splendor lucis aeternae,
et sol justitiae: veni, et illumina
sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

The altos of the Schola Cantorum sing:

*O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,
and sun of justice: come, and illumine those
sitting in darkness and the shadow of death.*

Music: Dominican Chant

LESSON

Read by a treble of the Schola Cantorum

But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah are least among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, then the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall take his place as shepherd by the strength of the Lord, by the majestic name of the Lord, his God; and they shall dwell securely, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: he shall be peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Micah 1–4

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

All stand and sing:

St. Michael Hymnal 666: verse 1

RESPONSORY

Come, O Radiant Dawn, O bright and genial Sun.

Come, O Radiant Dawn, scatter the thick darkness which hangs upon our souls.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Words: St. Gertrude the Great

COLLECT

May the splendor of your glory dawn in our hearts, we pray, almighty God, that all shadows of the night may be scattered and we may be shown to be children of light by the advent of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

VI. O KING OF THE NATIONS

ANTIPHON

O Rex Gentium,
et desideratus earum,
lapisque angularis,
qui facis utraque unum:
veni, et salva hominem,
quem de limo formasti.

The Schola Cantorum and Parish Choir sing:

*O King of the nations,
and their desire,
the cornerstone,
who makes both peoples one,
come and save mankind,
whom you formed from clay.*

Music: Dominican Chant

LESSON

Read by the Prior

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. He went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

He said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance; and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 3:1–18

CAROL

All stand and sing:

On Jordan's Bank

St. Michael Hymnal 699: verses 1, 2, and 5

RESPONSORY

Come, O King of the nations, fairest of the sons of men.

Come, O King of the nations, and enrich our great poverty.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Words: St. Gertrude the Great

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that your family may walk in the way of salvation and, attentive to what saint John the Precursor urged, may come safely to the one he foretold, our Lord Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

VII. O EMMANUEL

ANTIPHON

The Director of Music sings:

O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster,
expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum:
veni ad salvandum nos,
Domine, Deus noster.

*O Emmanuel, our King and Governor,
one awaited by the nations and their Savior:
come to save us,
O Lord our God.*

Music: Dominican Chant

LESSON

Read by the Pastor

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age,

and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 1:26–38

CAROL

The Parish Choir sings:

O tu illustrata de divina claritate,
clara Virgo Maria,
Verbo Dei infusa,
unde venter tuus floruit
de introitu Spiritus Dei,
qui in te sufflavit
et in te exsuxit quod Eva abstulit
in abscisione puritatis,
per contractam contagionem de
suggestione diaboli.

*Illumined by God’s clearest brightness,
O Virgin Mary bright,
infused with the Word of God,
your womb flourished at
the entrance of God’s Spirit;
for within you he breathed
and drew out that which Eve lost:
a purity cut off and silenced
by that disease contracted at
the Devil’s sly persuasion.*

Words: St. Hildegard of Bingen

Music: Caitlin Harrison

RESPONSORY

Hail Mary, fair Lily of the radiant and ever-peaceful Trinity.

Hail Mary, radiant Rose of heavenly fragrance.

Uphold and aid us, miserable sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Words: St. Gertrude the Great

COLLECT

O God, eternal majesty, whose ineffable Word the immaculate Virgin received through the message of an Angel and so became the dwelling-place of divinity, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit: grant, we pray, that by her example we may in humility hold fast to your will.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS

RESPONSORY

All kneel

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Lift up your heads, O gates.

**Be lifted, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may enter.**

Who is this king of glory?

**The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in war.**

Who is this king of glory?

**The Lord of hosts:
he is the king of glory.**

Words: Psalm 24:7–8, 10

Come, Lord Jesus.

HYMN

All stand and sing:

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

St. Michael Hymnal 610: verses 1, 2, and 4

Descant: Christopher Holman

PRAYERS

Let us pray in the words of our patroness, St. Gertrude the Great:

Come, Lord Jesus, O beloved. Come and be present with me in the meager chamber of my heart. And though I have made ready nothing which is becoming of your dazzling magnificence, yet there will you find a heart that you love, which tends to you alone, and gives affections only to you. Amen.

St. Gertrude the Great:

Pray for us.

Holy Father Dominic:

Pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God:

Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

CAROL

The Schola Cantorum sings:

In the bleak midwinter frosty winds made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed.
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

What can I give him poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

*Words: Christina Rossetti
Music: Harold Darke*

SOLEMN BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bow down for the blessing.

All bow

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his only Begotten son and yearn for his coming again sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's advent and enrich you with his blessing.

Amen.

As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

Amen.

So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

RECESSION

Toccata on "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Hugo Distler

